Library

Susan Flannery, Director • 449 Broadway, Cambridge • 617.349.4040

"The kids just love the whole bag thing. As soon as they see the red bag, they know what it is and they ask to see the new books. We're so fortunate to have this in Cambridge – it's such a bonus for us."

Family day care provider



Cambridge Public Library (CPL) by the Numbers in FY12

- Checked out a record breaking 1,517,178 items
- Added 49,261 new books, compact discs, DVDs and other materials to the collection, a 2.5 % increase
- · Registered 10,327 new cardholders, for a total of 62,548 cardholders
- Processed 239,360 incoming and 117,856 outgoing reserves, a 9% increase
- Offered 204,117 computer sessions, a 15% increase
- Answered 241,297 questions, a 2% increase
- Provided access for 329,597 online database searches for in-house and remote users
- Delivered 9,745 books to homebound seniors, live-in senior housing, nursing homes and assisted living facilities
- Accommodated 84,999 individuals at library programs, a 17% increase
- Hosted 571 community sponsored events in library buildings
- Attracted 2,323,756 page views to our Website
- Downloaded 12,946 ebooks

Highlights and Accomplishments

- For the first time in its history, the Cambridge Public Library exceeded one and a half million checkouts in a fiscal year. That number represents a 52% increase over the last full year of operation before the new Main Library opened and a 9% increase over last year's historic high of 1,397,593.
- To mark the sesquicentennial of the Civil War, War by Sebastian
 Junger was selected for the 2011 CambridgeREADS book. Autumn
 was designated as "A Season of Remembrance" to commemorate
 the anniversary and to honor all who have served and are serving
 our country. Residents flocked to Sanders Theater to hear Sebastian

Junger speak about his experiences in Afghanistan and the development of his book and the film *Restrepo*. The library hosted a film series covering the Civil War, WWI, WWII, as well as the Vietnam and Afghanistan conflicts. Academy Award winning director Peter Davis introduced his film *Hearts and Minds* and responded to questions after the screening. In a cooperative venture with the Cambridge Historical Society and the Cambridge Historical Commission, the library hosted the 22nd and 28th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry and the Lawrence Civil War Memorial Guard for a Civil War encampment in front of the Main Library. Over 1,000 residents of all ages visited the encampment.

- In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr., family members reminisced about the Speaker with his former staff member, *Hardball*'s Chris Matthews. A capacity crowd filled the Main Library Lecture Hall to learn about Tip as a young man, a neighbor, a congressman and a father. Through the generosity of the Burns Library at Boston College, the Main Library exhibited artifacts and memorabilia from the Speaker's life.
- As part of the celebration of the 375th anniversary of Harvard, the university sponsored the John Harvard Lecture Series at the Cambridge Public Library. President Drew Faust enthralled a full house at the Main Library with her observations on life as a historian. Anne Fadiman spoke about life as a book lover and Dean Kathleen McCartney depicted the realities of current student achievement and the lofty aspirations for improving public education. Evelyn M. Hammonds, Dean of Harvard College and the Barbara Gutmann Rosenkrantz Professor of the History of Science and of African American Studies, gave the address for the Central Square Branch's 38th annual celebration of the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Museum of Natural History engaged neighborhood families at the O'Connell and Valente branch libraries.

"I think that this library shows America what progressive 'public' really means to our nation."

Jin Li

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Main Library

- "Sing to Me, O Muse! A Symposium" highlighted the impact of epic poems, myths and legends of the ancient Greeks on childhood, literature and culture. Presented in cooperation with Children's Literature New England and The Examined Life: Greek Studies in the Schools, the program included readings and lectures as well as musical and dramatic performances. Gregory Maguire, Susan Cooper, Ashley Bryan, Jill Paton Walsh, John Rowe Townsend and Sebastian Lockwood were among the many presenters.
- "The Exquisite Conversation: An Adventure in Creating Books" was presented in collaboration with MIT and the National Children's Book and Literacy Alliance. Panelists included renown authors and illustrators such as M.T. Anderson, Natalie Babbitt, Steven Kellogg, Susan Cooper, Patricia MacLachlan, Katherine Patterson, Timothy Basil Ering and James Ransome.
- A successful symposia on the history of the Inner Belt was co-sponsored with the Cambridge Historical Society. "The Community Organizers" and the "Legacy of the Inner Belt" were hosted by the library. Participants included Ansti Benfield, Barbara Norfleet, Ann Hershfang, Gordon Fellman, Anthony Flint, John Wofford and Suzanne Rasmussen.
- The Teen Room continued to attract students in large numbers. Special events included an array of well known young adult authors such as Leigh Fallon, Amalie Howard, Joe Lunievicz, Ruta Sepetys, Kristin Cashore, Jesse Andrews, Francisco X. Stork, Elizabeth Eulberg, Kim Harrington and Kathryn Lasky. Other successful programs were the first drop-in book discussions for CRLS required summer reading titles, poetry slams and the second annual SAT Quiz Bowl.
- The Cambridge Public Library continued to serve as the regional Early Childhood Resource Center for the Commonwealth. Eleven programs such as Challenges for Chinese Immigrant Children, So Sexy So Soon, The Bilingual Mind, Inside the ADHD Mind and Bullying Prevention attracted hundreds of parents and caregivers.
- The wildly popular Children's Room continues to exceed its past success. Use of children's materials increased 11% to 333,322 and over one half of the collection is checked out at any given time. Staff offer 10 weekly programs for children of all ages and three book



Neighbors enjoy catching up on the news in a Chinese language newspaper at the O'Connell Branch.



discussion groups each month for children from grades 3-7 as well as one for homeschoolers.

- Public readings were held to celebrate the 50th anniversary of *James* and the Giant Peach and the anniversary of Dr. Seuss' birthday, "Six Seusses on the Sixes."
- Kadir Nelson, author and illustrator of *Heart and Soul: the Story of* America and African Americans, presented an engaging and inspiring program for children and their families.

Literacy Initiatives

• Over 8,300 adult learners participated in the 1,896 individual tutorials as well as the 444 classes and English conversation groups offered through the Adult Literacy Project.

Boudreau Branch

• Over 3,000 residents attended the 150 programs offered throughout the year and checkouts exceeded 84,000.

Collins Branch

• The reading garden was put to good use this year as the venue for Labor Day and Memorial Day neighborhood picnics, and weather permitting, storytimes and toddler sings made their way outside as well. Checkouts exceeded 48,000, program offerings increased 50% and attendance increased 79%.

Central Square Branch

• In the first year following its renovation, the branch checked out 121,000 items and hosted 7,569 attendees to its 225 programs.

O'Connell Branch

• The branch checked out 58,548 items and offered 327 programs which attracted over 8,000 participants.

O'Neill Branch

- Circulation exceeded 106,000, program attendance remained high at 5,410 and public access computer use increased 5%.
- Local author Jean Mason spoke about her new book, View from 410, which documents her experiences with Cambridge Cohousing.

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Valente Branch

- His surviving brother Robert Francis Valente, other family members and friends of PFC Salvatore F. Valente gathered with representatives from the Veterans' Department to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the PFC Salvatore F. Valente Branch Library dedication. For the first time, PFC Valente's medals and commendations as well as other memorabilia were on display. An etched plaque was unveiled in the lobby and Sarah Boyer of the Historical Commission took the audience on a trip down memory lane to the East Cambridge of the young Sal Valente.
- Programming increased 15% and attendance increased 23% to almost 8,000 residents. Highlights included a visit from Luisa Frota Da Cunah, author of the popular Portuguese children's series *Teodora*, and the initiation of weekly stories and songs in Spanish.

"The best part was all of the families who actively took part, climbing through the tents, practicing drills with muskets, marching along with us....As a re-enactor all of these make a perfect event! ... Thank you for allowing us to share our passion and knowledge about the Civil War with the people of Cambridge."

Rob O'Brien, Quartermaster Sergent, Co. "D" 22nd Mass Volunteer Infantry

License Commission

Michael Gardner, Chairman; Elizabeth Lint, Executive Director • 831 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge • 617.349.6140

The Cambridge License Commission, comprised of a civilian Chair, the Fire Chief and the Police Commissioner, is responsible for issuing licenses and enforcing rules, regulations, local ordinances and state laws that regulate the sale of alcoholic beverages, the operation of restaurants, package stores, hotels, entertainment, taxicabs and drivers, parking lots, garages, peddlers, lodging houses and other individuals and establishments in the city as well as the Pole and Conduit applications and Noise Ordinance enforcement.

The front office staff continued to dedicate much of its time to renewing and issuing annual and special one-day licenses that accounted for over \$2 million in revenue, funding the complete cost of operations for the Commission's office and field investigators.

Highlights and Accomplishments

- The License Commission was awarded a Clean Air Cab grant in the amount of \$150,000 from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation to allow the City of Cambridge to continue its commitment to environmental awareness by replacing as many gas powered taxicabs as possible with hybrid vehicles.
- The License Commission successfully worked with the Community Development Department and the Inspectional Services Department to coordinate the Riverfront Mobile Food Program.
- The License Commission granted several new restaurant licenses in Kendall Square to help with the revitalization of the neighborhood.

